



West Bountiful City

Strength • Unity • Family

Mayor's Message

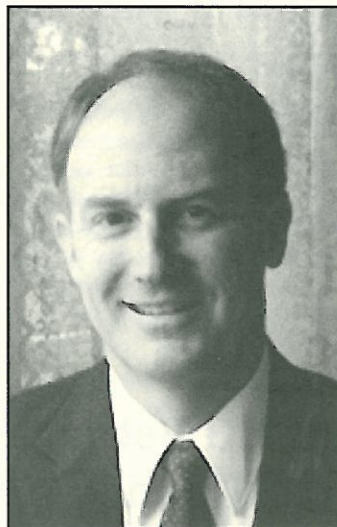
RAP Tax Would Pay for New Parks and Trails with Little Fiscal Impact on Our Residents

By Mayor James Behunin

The City Council and Planning Commission have developed an ambitious plan to provide more park space and trails in our community. There are several properties that UDOT purchased when it built the Legacy Parkway. UDOT has offered to sell those properties to West Bountiful City. The city hopes to purchase several acres at the end of Pages Lane, Porter Lane and 1200 North to provide additional space for soccer fields, playgrounds and several new boweries for family and group events.

In addition, there are several upgrades that are needed at our current city park on Pages Lane. The city council would like to redesign the park and upgrade the facilities there. Furthermore, the city would like to build several new trails that will provide residents with a safe place for walking, biking and riding horses. Finally, the City Arts Council has a list of equipment that would help improve the monthly performances at city hall.

Unfortunately, it has become difficult to find money for parks, trails facilities and



the arts when the city budget is barely covering the city's basic needs. The city council has not been willing to consider a property tax increase, but has agreed to allow voters to consider a RAP tax. A RAP tax would place a tenth of one percent tax on all non-food sales in the city and would last for eight years. The proceeds could only be spent on Recreation, Arts and Parks. In fact, the residents of West Bountiful are already paying a RAP tax when they shop in Centerville and

For instance, Costco reports that only 3% of its West Bountiful store sales are made by our residents... In effect, residents of other cities would pay for our parks and our trails.

Bountiful City, where voters approved a RAP tax last year. What is interesting is that the residents of Bountiful and Centerville don't pay a RAP tax when the shop in West Bountiful City.

Current estimates indicate that a RAP tax would raise about \$1.5 million over the next eight years, however, because the vast majority of shoppers in West Bountiful are from other cities, the residents of West Bountiful would actually pay only a small portion of the tax. For exam-

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ple, Costco reports that only 3 percent of the sales at their store in West Bountiful are made by West Bountiful residents. What this means is that by approving the RAP tax, the city could generate revenues for new parks and trails with little financial impact on its residents. In effect, the RAP tax would allow other residents of Davis County to pay for the parks and trails in our community.

The City Council has approved placing the RAP tax on the November Ballot and residents are encouraged to give serious consideration to the proposal. Those wishing to participate in an on-line discussion about the RAP tax can follow the links at www.westbountiful.utah.gov.

Dave Thomas: Citizen Recognition

Dave Thomas has indeed seen the world. Born and raised in Memphis, Tenn., he earned a Master's Degree in political science and geography, then received a commission in the U.S. Air Force. He was trained as an Intelligence Officer in Denver, moved to Mather AFB in California where he earned a Distinguished Graduate in flight training, and was transferred to Idaho where he trained to fly F-111 fighter aircraft.

While living in Mountain Home, Idaho, Dave and his family joined the LDS Church. Dave was soon assigned for a military tour in Upper Heyford, England, before moving back to Idaho

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Mayor James Behunin | 292-5151 |
| Debbie McKean | 298-3179 |
| Cheryl Searle | 298-7056 |
| James Bruhn | 292-7912 |
| Ken Romney | 298-3952 |
| Valerie Shaw | 294-0069 |